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6. UTILITY again remarked that his relations with the British are very close. He said that he had pushed for a better understanding with London at the time of the Franco/German rapproachement. He felt this was one way of keeping things in balance. He considers that he now enjoys a relationship based on full mutual confidence.

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30 September 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Ambassador George C. McGhee

SUBJECT:

Conversation with General Gehlen 29 September '64

- 1. General Gehlen, President of the BND, had the following comments to make 29 September. He felt that the briefing given by the Director of Central Intelligence on 28 September had been a thorough going success. After the briefing, Chancellor Erhard asked him whether German intelligence could produce good photography. He replied that in his opinion the cost of such a program would be well out of the range of anything the Germans could undertake. He added that in his opinion the Germans should concentrate on doing the very best job of collection that they can and that they should give full support to American intelligence and should cultivate very strong ties with the U.S.
- 2. Further to this point, Gehlen told me that he has recently written to Minister Westrick asking that the budgetary ceiling imposed on his organization two years ago be re-examined. He explained that in the late 50's and early 60's, with Adenauer's full agreement, he had embarked on a program of increasing Germany's collection capabilities in the signal intelligence field. He has now reached the point where he cannot round out his collection effort without more funds.
- 3. Gehlen did not indicate whether he thought he has a chance of getting more money but he did say that the present administration is now much better informed about intelligence than it was at the outset.
- 4. Gehlen felt that Minister Krone had not completely succeeded in answering the question: Can the German Government, using its close alliance with France, bring France somewhat more into sep within the framework of the North Atlantic alliance? Gehlen said that Krone's replies had a court to him to be somewhat hesitant and enigmatic, although clearly indicating that Krone feels deeply about the matter. As background, Gehlen explained that Krone has been one to urge Chancellor Erhard to keep the door open to France. His interest in keeping Franco/German relations on a good footing is in part inspired by fear that France, feeling rebuffed, may embark on anentirely independent course isolating herself from Germany and the U.S. and in a sense placing Germany in the awkward position of standing between unfriendly forces. Gehlen said that there had been rumors in Paris that such a course of action may be contemplated and that he and Krone, while not believing that such a decision has been made, are concerned that it might be.

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